January 28, 1967

Dear Jerry,

John Friedman called me last night with an improved offer from Dell on which I've still held off. For WHITEWASH II an advance of $10,000 and an initial 12%. I am not anxious to go into paperback right away. I'd be a lot more interested if they gave me a hardback offer tied to paper if they insist.

Being bounced from the "Sepcial" means I will not be in NY Mon and Tue. But I've a short New England trip (that I and not Dell arranged) and I'll stop off in New York either the 5th or the 6th or both and I'd like to be able to talk to you.

I can do a real quick book Unofficial Whitewash:Manchester Machiavelli and I think, coming out close to Manchester's, it might attract a major publisher. It will be by content sympathetic to Kennedy.On the assassination Manchester is 100% wrong. The book is already getting a very bad press in Europe and I think it will be at least as big a scandal as I've been telling you. Le Monde found it very cheap. Its correspondent Alain Clement agrees it is a literary prostitution and has virtually said so.

Once it is understood that there are no secrets in the book and that there was no real effort to suppress anything, the attitude toward the book will change, though it will undoubtedly still sell.

What do you think:

Do you agree that understanding of this tragic catastrophe Manchester, "alone and unassisted", wrought, may help all books on the assassination? I do. I also think there is both ax need and a market for a book exposing him and his Pure entirely on the basis of fact.

If I can get editing, I can do it very fast. I did 7,500 words in less than what for me is a day. I can do it largely from Look and can finish it up from pages. I can use a few secret documents, etc. and still have more than enough for WHITEWASH III. And on this I'm dredging more gold. I've now got a respectable list of pictures not examined, witnesses who took pictures not called, Arlen Specter describing the rear non-fatal injury as a back wound after he saw the autopsy report and the doctors, the Commission's own belief that Connally was struck by a second bullet, documentary proof that my initial charge is correct: they sought only to "convict" Oswald. It is, I think, very good documentation. I can even have a color picture, never published, of what Manchester calls the "work shirt" Oswald wore that morning. I've also got an idea for getting a folk singer to do a ballad to go with it, "The Ballad of Bullet 399".